



Department of Justice

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EVANSVILLE MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION AND RECEIPT OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL INVOLVING MINORS

INDIANAPOLIS - Jerry R. Scheller, Jr., 56, of Evansville, Ind., was charged late yesterday with receipt and possession of sexually explicit material involving minors, following an investigation by the Indiana State Police.

The charging document alleges that between November 5, 2008 and May 18, 2009, Scheller, using a computer he operated in Posey County, Ind., and Vanderburgh County, Ind., downloaded and received numerous images and videos using file sharing software depicting actual minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. In a second count Scheller is charged with possession of sexually explicit material involving minors that he allegedly saved on an external hard drive.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Scheller faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Evansville.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

An Information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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